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The Planters' Monthly.

H. M. WHITNEY, Editor.

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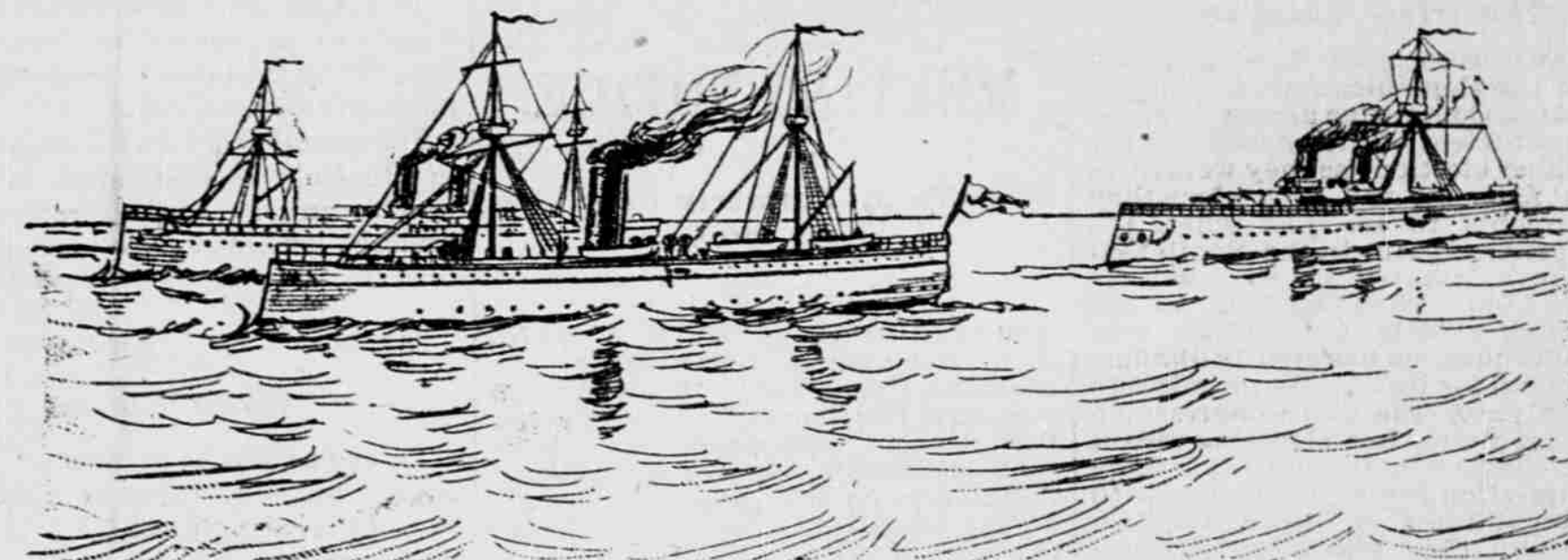
Rapid Advance of the Japanese Army in China.

RUSSIA MAY TAKE A HAND.

A Station in the Latter Country Said to Have Been Plundered, and This Will Serve as an Excuse—American Naval Officers Dissatisfied, Etc., Etc.

LONDON, Sept. 25.—A dispatch to the Times from St. Petersburg says: It is reported that China has attacked the station of the new Ussuri section of the Siberia railway, plundered the telegraph office and killed eight Russian employees. It is feared that the Government will make this a pretext to interfere in the Korean struggle between China and Japan.

LONDON, Sept. 23.—A dispatch to the Standard from Berlin says that advices have been received there from Seoul, as follows: The Japanese army, which is marching to Peking, will be



Ching Yuen. Chih Yuen. Lai Yuen.
CHINESE CRUISERS WHICH WERE SUNK IN THE NAVAL BATTLE AT YALU RIVER.

accompanied by a naval squadron to the mouth of the Pei Ho river, in the province of Pechili. The army and fleet will be in constant touch, with a view of having the fleet assist in provisioning the army.

The news of the great victory of the Japanese over the Chinese at Ping Yang was read at the Korean capital with every manifestation of joy. The Japanese flag was carried through the streets to the King's Palace. The King at once telegraphed his congratulations to General Count Tamagato, and also sent an expression of his homage to the Mikado, designating the Japanese as the liberators of Korea. The Mikado replied, addressing the King as his friend and ally, and expressing the hope that Korea would prosper, now that she had shaken off the Chinese yoke.

A dispatch to the Central News from Shanghai, dated this afternoon, says that the missing Chinese transports have arrived safely at Taku, in the gulf of Pechili.

A Shanghai dispatch states that the Chinese Government has refused the request of Prince Ching, President of the Tsung-tai Yamen, that he be given command in Korea. Prince Ching is a strong advocate of conceding the Japanese demands. It is supposed that he only wanted to investigate personally the condition of the Chinese forces in the field.

The dispatch adds that the British gunboat Pigmy has been dispatched to New Chang, at the head of the gulf of Liau Tung, in anticipation of a possible Japanese attack upon that place.

The dowager Empress of China has donated another 3,000,000 taels from her birthday fund toward meeting the expenses of the war.

Eight foreign volunteers did splendid service during the battle of the Yalu, and their conduct did much to instill spirit into the Chinese. Engineers Albrecht and Hoffman were the only two of the eight engineers who were not wounded. The wounded are doing well, and will soon be fit for duty.

It is reported that a Russian fleet has assembled at Vladivostok, prepared for immediate action. The transports of the volunteer fleet as they arrive are detained at Vladivostok.

THE BATTLE OF YALU.

Description of the Great Naval Fight in the Orient.

LONDON, Sept. 20.—A dispatch from Tien-tsin says: From Chinese officers who arrived here and latter from messages from Port Arthur, a full narrative of the naval battle of Yalu is obtainable.

Admiral Ting, commanding the Chinese northern squadron, was instructed by the council of war here to convey six transports and to land the troops, guns and stores at Yo Chow, from which base China intended to

renew operations in Korea. The battleships Ting Yuen, Chen Yuen, King Yuen, Ping Yuen, Li Yuen and Tsi Yuen, and the cruisers Chi Yuen, Ching Yuen, Chao Yuen, Yang We, Kwang Kai and Wang Tin, together with four torpedo-boats, escorted the transports.

They arrived at the entrance to the Yalu River early Monday morning and the disembarkation proceeded rapidly, the transports steaming into the river while the warships anchored outside.

At 11 o'clock smoke on the horizon indicated the approach of a large flotilla. The situation was grasped immediately, and Admiral Ting gave orders for weighing of anchors and the placing of the ships in battle array. If he remained near the shore his movements would be cramped, and if he steamed out for sea room he ran the risk of a Japanese cruiser or torpedo boat running in among his transports. He chose the lesser of the two evils and formed a fighting line to guard the estuary in single column in the following order, from port to starboard: Kang We, Chi Yuen, Tsi Yuen, King Yuen, Li Yuen, Ching Yuen, Ping Yuen, Ching Yuen and Chao Yuen.

As a second fighting line, and to meet any Japanese ship which might succeed in forcing the fighting line, the Kwang Kai and Wang Tin, with four torpedo-boats, were stationed at the mouth of the river.

The Japanese fleet, approached at full speed until within range. Then they advanced in columns forming into two lines. Nine ironclad cruisers formed the fighting line, while three gunboats and five torpedo-boats

seemed to be on the point of foundering. It was not until dark, however, that the firing ceased and the battered Japanese fleet departed in double line formation. Toward morning the remnants of the Chinese fleet with six transports started for Port Arthur, which was safely reached.

The damage to the best Chinese ships is so extensive that it can scarcely be repaired before winter. The officers say both sides showed the most ferocious courage.

AN EXPERT'S OPINION.

What Captain Mahan Has to Say of the Naval Battles.

LONDON, Sept. 23.—The United States cruiser Charleston sailed this afternoon for Havre, where she will be docked. Captain Mahan, her commander, had the following to say on the recent naval battle between the Japanese and Chinese fleets:

"The great thing with a fleet of war vessels with a lot of transports in charge is to prevent surprise or encirclement. In this case there was a surprise, and this fact, to my mind, supplies a prominent lesson. It is necessary, in attempting to convoy transports, that the convoying fleet should be decisively superior to that of the enemy, but the Chinese fleet was much embarrassed by the presence of its transports. The Chinese admiral formed in fleet so close in shore because he was obliged to do so. If he had gone out to meet the Japanese fleet, which was the proper course, he would have uncovered the mouth of the river into which the transports had gone. Consequently he drew up

close in shore, by which movement he was tactically embarrassed in maneuvering. If his fleet had been much larger than that of the Japanese, he might have advanced at the same time, leaving a sufficient number of vessels to head off the rush which the Japanese might have made.

"The whole affair illustrates the extreme difficulty attending an attacking movement across the water, unless you have control of the water absolutely. Whether the Chinese succeeded in their object does not appear, but the question is whether it was worth such a risk for the sake of landing the troops. It certainly was bad management to fight so close in shore, for two of the Chinese vessels had not room to turn, and so went ashore. This is one reason why the Japanese did not try to pass through the Chinese line, for they would have got into shallow water and become entangled. It was a big engagement for modern vessels, but I see nothing yet to lead me to suppose that the engagement would point to the reconstruction or remodeling of war vessels."

AS TO HAIR CUTTING.

A Question Whether Japan Has Demanded This of Korea.

LONDON, Sept. 24.—A dispatch from Berlin to the Times states that a member of the Chinese Legation, in an interview, said that China dare not abandon Korea, even if the war should last thirty years. Besides, he added, the Koreans are still hostile to the Japanese, as is proven by their refusal to concede the Japanese demand that they cut off their long hair as a token of submission. The Japanese, he further said, have done everything to wound the feelings of the Chinese. Directly the Chinese Minister had left Tokio, at the outbreak of the active hostilities the Japanese destroyed the Chinese Legation and Buddhist temple, besides setting fire to and destroying Chinese club-houses and residences, and murdering helpless Chinese in the streets.

Count Aoki scouts the idea of any cessation of hostilities. In an interview he flatly denied that the Chinese had been murdered or their property destroyed at Tokio. On the other hand, he said, the Chinese had insulted the Japanese Minister at Tien-tsin, and had massacred fifty harmless Japanese laborers who were working in the camphor fields in Korea. It was also untrue, he declared, that the Japanese had demanded that the Koreans cut their hair. The King and the people of Korea have been friendly with the Japanese since the battle near Asan. In conclusion the Count said the Japanese leaders would, perhaps, have a hard task to invade China, but they were determined to persevere.

ANXIOUS OFFICERS.

They Wish to Witness the War in the Orient.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Consider-